Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday maintained the same rank during each of the three years. The ranks of the other days, being more equal in number of births, fluctuated during this period. Chi-square tests applied to the data show that the difference between observed number of births for each day of week and the expected number (based on the mean number of births per day during the three years) was significant ($P < .01$, 6df).

The data by race show a similar trend for whites, but the trend is slightly different for nonwhites. Nonwhite births are more evenly distributed than white births. An 8 percent difference exists between the high and low for nonwhites as opposed to a 25 percent difference for whites. The variation in the number of births by day of week was again statistically significant ($P < .01$, 6df) for both whites and nonwhites.

Births by Month and Season

Large disparities in number of births by month have long been observed in the United States and other countries (4,5). North Carolina also experienced monthly variation in births as can be seen in Figure 1. This figure compares 1974-76 births by month after the adjustment of February, April, June, September and November to 31-day bases for each year. September and August, the months with the largest number of births, together claimed 16 percent more births than April and May, the months with the fewest births.

FIGURE 1
RESIDENT LIVE BIRTHS BY MONTH
NORTH CAROLINA 1974-1976